

10-8-1985

Interview with Langdon Thomas Dyer (FA 41)

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Interviewer's tape no.: 1 WKU FL, FL & OHA Accession no.:
Interviewer: Langdon Dyer Address: 324 Morris Duff Road,
Woodburn, Kentucky
Interviewee: Shaunn Lybarger Address: 225-A Fuller Drive,
Bowling Green, Kentucky
Date: 10-8-85

Place of interview: Dyer Home
Other people present: Wife and son elsewhere in house
Equipment used: Sony cassette recorder

Reel-to-reel tape: Brand: Size reel: Tape Mil: Speed:
Cassette: Brand: 3-M AVX 60 C-30/C-60/C-90/C-120 (circle size)
Amount of tape used: (Side 1): to 435 (Side 2): to 393

Brief description of interview context and tape contents:
Interview with Langdon Dyer, a seller of produce at
Bowling Green's Farmer's Market. Biography and descriptions
of work with produce constitute the bulk of this tape.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
0017-022	SL: This is Shaunn Lybarger. I am a student at Western Kentucky University, and I am interviewing Mr. Langdon Dyer of Woodburn, Kentucky. The topic of this interview is Mr. Dyer's occupation as a produce raiser and seller. The date is Tuesday evening, October 8, 1985. Mr. Dyer, do I have your permission to record this conversation, to be used according to the donation form provided by the Kentucky Museum at Western Kentucky University?
022	LD: Yes.
023-024	SL: OK. OK. Uh, for the record, will you give me your full name please?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
024-026	LD: My first name is Langdon, L-A-N-G-D-O-N [spelled out]. Middle name, Thomas, T-H-O-M-A-S [spelled out]. Last name, Dyer, D-Y-E-R [spelled out].
026	SL: OK. And where were you born?
027	LD: Born in Barbourville, Kentucky.
027	SL: In Barbourville, Now is that B-A-R-B-O-R . . . ?
028	LD: No. Its B-A-R-B-O-U-R--uh, V-I-double L-E [spelled out].
029	SL: And . . . 'bout where is that in the state?
029-030	LD: Its, uh, near Corbin. Its in the Southeastern corner in the state of Kentucky.
031	SL: Near Corbin
031-032	LD: Near Corbin. Uh, Barbourville is the county seat, but part of the city of Corbin is in Knox County.
032	SL: All righty. And, uh, what's your present address?
032-033	LD: Its 324 Morris Duff Road, Woodburn, Kentucky.
033-034	SL: OK. And, um, when - what date were you born?
034	LD: September 29, 1925.
034	SL: OK. And, um, how long did you live at Barbourville?
034-037	LD: Uh - -I lived there until I was seventeen years of age.
037-038	SL: 'Till you were seventeen. OK. And, uh, can you list there, from after that, uh, where you've lived?
038	LD: Lived a lot of places. (laugh)
038-039	SL: Lot of places. Uh, just, you can be brief about it, but just name some places.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
039-056	LD: Well, when I was seventeen, I lived in S-Springfield, Ohio. And just past the age of eighteen I went into the military service. And, uh, I was in the service for two years. Returned to Barbourville, lived at home and attended Union College. Then, -- the next place I lived was-ah, I guess I was a -- in -- Fort Benning [Georgia] at the Associate Company Grade Infantry Officers School. Lived in Columbus, Georgia. [pause] And I lived in Corbin, Kentucky, -- and Jeffersonville, Indiana. And then, -- back to Corbin, -- to Charlotte, North Carolina, -- to Welch, West Virginia; back to Corbin, (laugh) to Hazard, Kentucky; to Bowling Green, Kentucky; to Louisville, Kentucky; -- and back to Bowling Green. And I forgot I also during this time lived another year in Springfield, Ohio.
056	SL: Oh golly. (laugh)
056	LD: So I don't have it in - have it in very good order.
056-057	SL: Oh, -- that's O.K., so you've really -- been around -- haven't you?
057	LD: Yes.
057-058	SL: All around this area. OK, um, tell me about the schools you attended.
058-062	LD: For the first six years I attended school, uh, it was a two-and three-room rural school called Bailey's, near Barbourville, in Knox County, Kentucky.
062	SL: Um hm. And you attended that how long you say?
062	LD: First six grades.
062-063	SL: First six grades. OK, and um -- from there where?

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

063-066

LD: There to junior high school atuh, -- Knox Central, -- in Barbourville, Kentucky. Actually I only attended junior high two years 'cause I skipped the seventh grade.

066

SL: OK. S' they put you ahead then?

067

LD: Yes

067

SL: OK. And then you went to high school?

068-073

LD: Yes, I attended Knox Central High School at Barbourville, -- then military service [cough] And then at - at just after age twenty -- I enrolled at Union College at Barbourville. -- This was in nineteen and forty-five. And I grad - I'm sorry, 1946. And I graduated in - in 1950.

073

SL: OK. And that was on the GI Bill?

073

LD: Yes.

074

SL: OK. And what was your studies?

074-077

LD: I had a major in mathematics, a minor in history, a minor in sociology, and also qualified -- by taking the required courses to - to be a secondary education teacher in Kentucky.

077

SL: OK. Um, tell me a little about your military -- experience.

078-091

LD: OK. Ah, [cough] I don't think I mentioned this, but I have an identical twin brother. And whatever happened to one of us -- also happened to the other, at least, uh, until we were -- in our early twenties. Uh, after we were discharged from the service we were together. And, uh, when when we started going to college, he - he married, and he decided he'd finish in three years. So I took the normal,

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

slower approach, and I graduated in four years. I - I didn't get married until I graduated. But anyway, we were both together in the military service. -- We were in the, its called the Air Force now, but in those days it was called the Army Air Corps, on a -- B-29 bomber crew. -- We flew thirty-three combat missions over Japan. And, -- did get a medal or two.

091 SL: Oh good!

091-092 LD: I was awarded the Air Medal, and cough one Distinguished Flying - the Air Medal I think four - four times.

092 SL: Oh good.

093 LD: Four times. And the Distinguished Flying Cross once.

093-094 SL: So, uh, -- you got the uh, Distinguished Flying Cross after completing all your missions, or

094-095 LD: No, it was for I'm not going to quote wha - what the crewmembers said. [cough]

096 SL: Oh! (laugh)

096-103 LD: Wha - we -- we were the only plane over Japan on this particular day, and er, a -- our mission was to photograph a city that had been burned out by incendiary bombs . . . fire bombs, the ah, the day before. And -- so we dropped rather low over the city, made two passes over it, to - ah get the pictures because there was cloud cover. And, uh, so - so everybody evidently thought we were great heroes, and uh, awarded the entire crew the Distinguished Flying Cross.

103 SL: Well I - I think that would take a - a lot of -- nerve to go that low over Japan! (laugh)

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

104-108

LD: Yes! Because even the rifles and machine guns [incoherent] were at an altitude where they could reach us. Instead of . . . we weren't un -- required to go below ten thousand feet. incoherent get the pictures incoherent went down to uh, just a little over two thousand feet.

108-109

SL: My gosh! (laugh) Oh my gosh that's pretty darn low! (laugh)

109-111

LD: We had to uh, after we went over the city, had to go up and find a wider valley where we could turn at that - that altitude . . . turned around and came back over it.

111

SL: (laugh)

111-114

LD: I might say the second time we went over there you could see tracers -- passing by us. Now you can't see a tracers if it approaches, but as it goes on past you, it seems like there's walls of them. We didn't get hit.

114-116

SL: Oh my gosh! (laugh) Oh my gosh. No wonder you guys got a medal! That's terrific! That is terrific! OK. Well when were you ah, discharged?

116

LD: In ah, No - October, -- nineteen forty-five.

117

SL: October, nineteen forty-five. And then, ah, later on you went into college right after then

118

LD: Well, actually I didn't start until . . . whenever school term began, the next year. I believe it was in September then.

119

SL: OK.

120

LD: So that was in nineteen forty-six I started.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

121-122

SL: Um, while your [cq] in school, um, did you belong to any agricultural clubs?

122-125

LD: No. Not in college. I guess I qualified for a normal, academic AB [cq] degree. However, when I was in high school I took vocational agriculture, and uh, was a member of the Future Farmers of America club.

125

SL: Didja also belong to 4-H?

125-130

LD: Yes, -- but not as active as in the Future Farmers of America, and uh, this was -- not an earlier age. I think from about age eleven to uh, age fourteen or fifteen.

130-132

SL: Uh huh. And, ah, -- did this ah, -- give you any -- training, uh, to have a garden like you do today?

132-140

LD: It helped... Uh, I particularly learned quite a bit about fruit trees. And uh, was amazed, later on when I became interested in growing them, how much good, sound information I learned back then. Its largely unchanged except they had developed more -- insecticides to, ah, counteract the various viruses and, uh, bugs that will affect trees 'n some blights 'n such. But most of the knowledge I have of gardening I learned as a child at home . . . my parents.

140-141

SL: Can you give me, uh, a little -- history about that?

141-149

LD: Well . . . when . . . remember we had a rather -- my parents had a rather large family, and, uh, from early age actually, a garden was a big help as far as food supply was concerned. My mother did a lot of canning of all types

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

of vegetables, and also the canning of fruits, 'n dried -- such things as beans, 'n peaches, apples. So - ah, I was -- required to work in the garden.

149

SL: Mm-hm.

149-153

LD: An-ah, from an early age, . . . and I learned -- quite a bit about our garden, and after I -- was married and -- on my own so to speak, I've never been satisfied unless I had a garden. Now I haven't grown vegetables for sale except the last four years, but -- everytime I could wherever I lived I had a garden.

153-157

SL: OK. um -- lets see -- did ah -- well when did you become interested in agriculture? 'Mean, did you - were you - always like it as a child, or, -- did it sort of grow on you?

157-164

LD: I guess. Uh, 'course a child -- young teenager -- when they're forced to work they think its punishment. But I, ah, enjoyed parts of it even then, so I suppose the love of gardening actually began -- even as a pre-teen or early as an early teenager.

164

SL: What kind of work did you do in your parents' garden?

164-173

LD: The father would always, uh, cultivate the soil, prepare the seed bed, and he would do the plowing of the cultivation after the plants were, uh, -- up out from the ground. But ah, I helped spread fertilizer and - and planted - covered seed, -- helped dig the weeds out, and keep it weeded either by hand or by hoe, and helped pick just about every vegetable that we, uh, we grew. We grew a wide variety - not as much a variety as I grow now, but quite a bit. Quite a few varieties of vegetables.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
173	SL: Hm. OK. Well what ah, what is your father's name?
173	LD: William.
174	SL: Does he have a middle name?
174	LD: Yes, Bargo, William Bargo Dyer.
175	SL: That B-A-R-G-O-E? spelled out .
175	LD: Yes. No. Its B-A-R-G-O [spelled out].
176	SL: B-A-R-G-O. [spelled out]. An ah, -- where was he born?
177-179	LD: He was born, uh, in Bell County, Kentucky. Not sure, I think in Middlesboro, but I'm not positive.
179	SL: Um hm. And uh, 'bout when was this? -- Don't - don't worry about it. You don't have to
180	LD: I believe he was born in eighteen eighty-four.
181	SL: Eighteen eighty-four. OK. And what was his occupation?
182	LD: He was a carpenter. An' also had some uh -- training as a -- stone mason.
183	SL: Was a carpenter. What kind of things did he build?
184-188	LD: Just about -- everything. Houses, barns, -- out-u buildings Outbuildings in those days were called smokehouses.
188	SL: Oh! (laugh)
188-194	LD: Rather than just log buildings an' such as we call them today. Just a general purpose building outside -- a - away from the house was called a smokehouse. Now that, it got its name -- because some of those buildings were used to -- smoke meat, primarily pork or hams 'n such. But ah, that's what everybody calls buildings back -- when I was young.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	And you never hear it referred to that way except by a few old-timers anymore.
194-195	SL: I see.. OK. And did he always have a garden?
195-202	LD: Yes. We ah, matter of fact we lived in a . . . on our own place and -- the same place all the years I was growing up. And uh, 'course he worked away from home and my mother was primarily responsible -- for seeing that the garden was weeded and cultivated, although he would, he would plow -- through the rows. And if he was there home he helped too.
202-205	SL: I see. So um, -- so he had one - had a garden as far as, you know, all his life. Ah, did he sell any produce ah, downtown? Anything?
205-214	LD: He never did sell, ah, [incoherent] by the Farmer's Market as we know it in Bowling Green, which is -- parking spaces in the -- city parking lot downtown. -- We pull in trucks, cars incoherent. But he always . . . we - we - as I was brought up, we grew a lot of potatoes . . . we sold potatoes. Most of them were, most of the potatoes were sold to one -- company, -- Knox County Supply Company, in Barbourville. They would buy incoherent potatoes and uh, would sell them elsewhere.
214	SL: Can you remember what he asked for, . . . price?
214	LD: Yes. A dollar a bushel.
215-216	SL: A dollar a bushel! Oh my goodness. About how much do you sell a bushel for?
216	LD: Hm. Seven to -- nine dollars.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
216-217	SL: Whooo!. Talk about inflation! I bet you're still not
218-220	LD: This is still about, this is by the bushel. If I sell them by the pound, uh, I might get a little more than that, probably ten or eleven dollars.
221	SL: Um hm. Well that's still probably not what - what they're worth anyway; they're probably worth more than that. Probably
222	LD: Yes. (laugh)
223	SL: Yeah. -- OK. What's your mother's name?
223	LD: Her - her first name is Katherine.
224	SL: Katherine. With a K?
224-225	LD: K. -- An ah we always - everybody always called her "Kate." I didn't. Called her "Mama."
226	SL: (laugh) That's right. And what was her maiden name?
226	LD: King. K-I-N-G. [spelled out].
227	SL: Where was she born?
227-229	LD: She was born in Middlesboro, in Bell County, M-I-D-D-L-E-S-B-O-R-O. [spelled out].
230	SL: And ah, what was her job?
230	LD: Housewife.
231	SL: Housewife, and ah, garden maintenance woman?
231-234	LD: Yes, except, uh, us children - we helped in the garden, and my father, when he was available, in evenings or on -- Saturdays when he wasn't working.
234	SL: Uh huh.
234-235	LD: But I really guess that you'd say she was -- the person in charge of the gardening and saw that this was done, that was done.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
235-237	SL: OK. [pause] OK. What kind of, ah, occupations have you had?
238-242	LD: [pause] The year I was seventeen, I was an airplane mechanic. (laugh) Can you imagine a seventeen-year-old being an airplane mechanic? No
243	SL: Not these days.
243-246	LD: This was ah, in ah, nineteen and forty-two and part of nineteen forty-three; And uh, most of the males -- from eighteen to thirty five or forty were all drafted in the military service, so uh, there was a shortage of qualified people, and with a little training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, -- to the use of tools and such, I was assigned as an airplane mechanic, and worked, actually worked at this in preparing -- various types of airplanes for flight after they've been modified 'n new equipment placed on them -- until I volunteered for military service.
246-247	SL: And uh, C - did you work primarily on one kind of plane, or many?
247-254	LD: No, uh, whatever. Uh, one day you might be working on a P-40. That's a single-engine fighter plane. The next day you might be work [cq] on a B-17 bomber. Now they didn't have B-29's in those days.. Next day you might work on a B-24, that's another four-engine bomber. The next day on a B-25, which is a two-engine bomber.
254-255	SL: My goodness. Every kind! OK. Well um, 'course after you were a mechanic then you went into the service?
256	LD: Yes.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
256	SL: And what was, what was your job -- in the service?
256-265	LD: Well, ah, you . . . I took the written test and this goes, is true for my twin brother also, and went in as a potential aviation cadet. Now if you, if you -- complete the program -- you uh, become an officer in the Air Force. Now we were just eighteen when we went in the service, and uh, we uh, . . . I was dissappointed because [I] didn't make the grade, but really I wasn't grown up enough; wasn't mature enough.
265	SL: Um hm.
265-271	LD: So uh, -- after -- we had the basic training and didn't get to go into the aviation cadet program, we were sent to Air Force gunnery school. [pause] And, uh, this was at Las Vegas, Nevada, the other school was, and trained to be ah, gunners on the B-17.
271	SL: And where were you, -- at the waist, the tail or turret . . . ?
272-277	LD: Well at this time during training you ah, learned to fire all the guns from various positions. Then we were sent for reassignment -- to Lincoln, Nebraska, and fortunately or unfortunately, they were forming B-29 groups, and we were assigned to a B-29 group.
278	SL: Were both of you in the same aircraft?
278	LD: Yes
278-279	SL: Boy, that's neat. [pause] So ah, when you were on tour, then, what was your job?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
280	LD: I was uh, the left gunner -- and the plane electrician.
282	SL: An electrician. (laugh) Well that's -- that's an occupation you can go into
283-290	LD: Ah, he [his brother] was right gunner -- and he was the - eh -- backup aircraft engineer. And also, -- backup bomber. This is a arm the bombs and uh, make sure that the timing was set properly.
290-291	SL: So you sorta had interchangeable jobs if you had to?
291	LD: Yes.
292-294	SL: Um hm, I see. OK. Well after your thirty-three missions and you went into school -- what - what did you do after you got out of school?
294-310	LD: For - [cough] for the first two and a half years I taught mathematics in high school. [pause] And then I applied for a summer job at the DuPont Company making powder [ammunition explosive powder] in - at Charlestown, Indiana. That's near Jeffersonville. For a summer job. Well I found out they needed supervisors, so ah, instead of applying for a summer job I applied as a - to be a foreman - was chosen - so I worked there about a year, and I was laid off when the demand for uh, the demands for powder had been met. This was during the early stages of the Korean War so they - they just closed down the plant. I worked a period of time, I think about a year till closed, but I got laid off.
310	SL: What kind of powder was this?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
311-324	LD: It was actually two different kinds. The - they called it nitro-cellulose powder, and they mixed wood pulp with, uh, nitric acid, to make powder for cannon shells, such as artillery and mortar. They ah, ground up and mixed -- paper -- to - to make another kind of powder that was more accurate - more stable. They used in rifle and in -- tank shells.
324	SL: OK. And then after Du Pont?
325	LD: I uh, had taken the civil service test, -- and have passed it, so uh, I got a job with the Federal government in the Social Security Office in Corbin.
331	SL: OK. In what year was that? About?
332	LD: That was uh, December, nineteen fifty-four.
333	SL: OK. And you stayed in Social Security then until you retired?
334	LD: Yes.
334	SL: So, um, did you do a lot of moving around?
336-358	LD: Heh! Quite a bit! I was at Corbin for several years, and, in those days in order to be promoted -- you have to move. So I eh, started as a claims representative, and I was promoted in that same office to field representative. That could be done in some offices. In order to get into the supervision -- though -- you had to move. So I moved from there to Charlotte, North Carolina. And ah was a supervisor in Charlotte. I was there for 'bout six months, and uh, a fellow that I'd worked with in the past was district manager at Welch, West Virginia, and uh, they had a vacancy there,

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	so I got promoted to district ma - assistant district manager, in Welch, West Virginia. -- Might tell you that the assistant district manager in Social Security is - is the number two person in the office. The district manager is number one. Some people think its the assistant to the district manager. That isn't true, its the second position, and its the assistant district manager.
359	SL: Um huh.
359	LD: The number two job.
359	SL: OK.
360	LD: Within the district office.
360	SL: And um, were you married at this time?
361	LD: Yes
361	SL: What year were you married?
362	LD: In nineteen fifty.
362	SL: And ah, what's your wife's full name?
363	LD: Thelma.
363	SL: Thelma.
364	LD: Her maiden name was Stewart.
365	SL: Stewart. OK. That
365	LD: S-T-E-W-A-R-T [spelled out].
365	SL: And ah, incoherent. That was in nineteen fifty.
368	You say?
368	LD: Yes.
369-370	SL: Nineteen fifty. OK, -- Lets see. -- What um, -- What year did you retire?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
374	LD: Lets see, this is nineteen eighty-five. (laugh) I'm stuck. (More laughter) I can't s - four years ago. No!
377	SL: Four years ago. Nineteen eighty-one.
377	LD: Yeah, four.
378-382	SL: All right, so ah, lets see, how many years has that been then after -- all?
383	LD: You mean with - with Social Security?
383	SL: Yes
383-387	LD: Well -- subtract uh nineteen and fifty-four from nineteen eighty-one. You get what? twenty-seven years?
388	SL: Twenty-seven years. My goodness.
389	LD: Almost twenty-eight.
389	SL: Almost twenty-eight. OK! Ah, do you have any brothers and sisters?
390	LD: Yes. Living or ah . . .?
391:	SL: Well -- both.
391-400	LD: Both. OK. When I grew up, there was seven of us. Uh, since then, two brothers and a sister have ah, passed away. They died. Now there's only - there's four of us.
400	SL: OK. What were their names?
400	LD: OK. Do you want the ones living, deceased -- or both?
401	SL: Well how about in chronological order?
401-412	LD: All right. It -- just -- whether they're deceased or not? [Shaunn nods] OK. The oldest one was Jim. Of course his name was James. He's quite a bit older than I am. He was born in nineteen-four. And a -- the next one was a, Harrison. We called him "Harry." [pause] He was born in nineteen-eight.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

413 SL: OK.

413-418 LD: The next one was Homer -- and he was born in nineteen-twelve. Next one's Georgia.

418 SL: That's a girl? Oh?

419-422 LD: She was born in nineteen-fifteen. [pause] Now the next two are myself and my twin brother. His name is Burt.

423 SL: OK.

423 LD: 'Course you already have my birthday.

425 SL: Yeah.

425 LD: And he's the oldest, and our birth certificates show that he was born first.

426 SE: OK. Ah, how m - how many minutes older is he? (laugh)

428-429 LD: (laugh) It doesn't show on the birth certificate, but the family says fifteen minutes.

430 SL: Fifteen minutes! Well that makes him a sage doesn't it?

431-434 LD: I - I have one younger sister, Marjorie, M-A-R-J-O-R-I-E [spelled out]. [incoherent] She was born nineteen twenty-eight.

435 SL: Um hm.

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1]

002 SL: OK. You were going to tell me about your older brother's child?

003 LD: He has a daughter, she's my niece, but she's four months older?

004-006 SL: Your niece is four months older? (laugh) that is a spread! (more laughter) Quite a spread! Have you ever called her "Aunt" or . . .

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

006 LD: Oh yes!

006 SL: Oh yes.

007-008 LD: When we were -- kids, if she wanted to aggravate me and really get me made she'd call me "uncle." When I wanted to get her made I'd call her "niece." (Shaunn laughs)

009 SL: Oh gee whiz. I can't even imagine a spread like that!

009-014 LD: Uh, he was born when my mother was -- twenty. And ah, I was born -- when she was [incoherent]. A-ah, forty-one. [incoherent].

015 SL: Um, were any of your brothers and sisters involved in agriculture?

015-023 LD: Ah, not particularly. No. Oldest brother's special occupation was a, well he worked at International Harvester, manufacturing trucks in Springfield, Ohio, about thirty-five to forty years. My next brother is a retired -- civil service employee - federal government employee. My sister Georgia, her husband worked and lived on, and made their living from a farm for -- about seven or eight years.

023-024 SL: OK. Um -- well lets see your wi - you told me your wife's name is Thelma?

024 LD: Yes

024 SL: Thelma Stewart Dyer. Does she have a middle name?

024 LD: Irene. I-R-E-N-E. [spelled out].

025-026 SL: OK. And uh, see, you told me that you were married -- in nineteen-fifty. And where was this?

026 LD: [incoherent] Barbourville, Kentucky.

027 SL: Barbourville.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

028 SL: And, uh, what's the name of the church?

028-029 LD: long pause. Shaunn starts to say something and Langdon laughs. OK. That's OK. You - you're Baptist though, aren't you?

030 LD: Yes.

030 SL: And so it's Baptist. OK. And where was she born?

031-032 LD: She was born, uh, at Jarvis, in Knox County, Kentucky.

032 SL: OK. And -- a, what's her -- occupation?

032-038 LD: Primarily housewife. She has worked for -- some since . . . in fact I think she was working when we were married. She worked in -- [incoherent] clothing factories -- sewing. And then she worked a couple of times at, eh, discount stores -- the eh, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, [incoherent] she's - and she worked a little bit at, eh, Sears. Uh, she's been primarily housewife.

038 SL: OK. And does she help you with, uh, with your -- garden and -- selling?

039 LD: Yes! (laugh)

039 SL: (laugh) That - that was I like the way you -- said that. (laugh) What's her work?

040 LD: She -she's the bean picker.

040 SL: She's the bean picker!

041 - 047 LD: Um. I don't like to pick beans --, so she does most of the bean picking, whether it be lima beans, or regular green beans, or the black-eyed peas. And um, I'm the corn picker. She didn't help me -- this year, corn picking, although she has in the past. And uh, mostly picking beans she does. The rest of 'em we share 'n share alike.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

047-048

SL: Um hm... So um, 'bout how many hours do you say you put into it, I mean in your garden?

048-059

LD: It - its really hard to say. You -- you do what's necessary -- and it might mean that you'll spend uh, -- an entire day. Now this, uh, s - are often eight or to ten hours and this could be during planting -- or in cultivation or during harvesting. And -- some days uh, you may spend an hour or two. Now back during the days in part of -- July and August when we were harvesting -- three days a week and selling, incoherent Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, we'd pick Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and ah, wash two days before we're ready. So we take 'em to Bowling Green to sell them. It was -- ten to twelve hours -- each day. Actually the selling was a break!

060

SL: (laugh) Sounds like it!

060-064

LD: I harvested . . . now we didn't do this -- regularly -- over maybe -- too many weeks because we didn't have that much to sell. Gradually dropped back to ah, two days a week. And uh, the one now.

064

SL: Hm. Well, I'm going to get back to that. I got ahead of myself here. I was going to ask if you have any children.

065

LD: Yes. I have three.

066

SL: OK. What kind?

066

LD: Two boys and a girl.

066-068

SL: (laugh) OK. Um. What's their names and how old are they?

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

068-074

LD: The oldest is -- Michael. We call him Mike. And uh, he was born -- September the thirteenth, nineteen fifty-one. -- The next one is Nancy -- she was born March fifteenth, nineteen fifty-five. The -- youngest is Donald. He was born May the seventh, nineteen - fifty - uh - sixty-one.

074

SL: OK. And uh, what are their occupations?

074-081

LD: OK. Our oldest son, Michael, is a -- his occupation is a certified public accountant. Uh, he does have a bachelor's degree. He got it - a bachelor in religious degree from a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He has been fulltime in -- church activities as a - ah - activities minister, and worked part time . . . at present he's just active in the church. He doesn't work.

082

SL: And

082-091

LD: And not -- lately even a part-time salary. Nancy is a nurse, an RN. She uh - graduated from Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Louisville, -- about six years ago I guess. Been a nurse [incoherent]. Donald chose not to -- go to -- college. I told all my children that - that I would pay for -- four years of education beyond high school, whatever they wanted to do. Instead he took electrical training. Vocational school, and he's now employed in air conditioning and heating. [incoherent].

091

SL: Many people say that's a -- very intelligent choice -- these days.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
092-098	LD: Might be. He's ah, pretty well mechanically inclined, and gifted, and like his work. He . . . its just nice to have somebody to -- fix electrical problems or air conditioning problems that occur in the house. He also [incoherent] as as plumber, which is what you'll get [incoherent] and ah, he's a pretty good hand.
098	SL: Great! That's great. Um. Did any of the kids help you um, with your work?
099	LD: Uh, do you mean -- with the produce?
099	SL: Uh huh.
099	LD: No. Uh, not really. Our youngest, Donald, he'll run the tractor. He likes - he likes to do that. When it comes harvesting or ah -- cultivating, he might run a tiller. Not goin' to use a hoe. Not goin' to pull weeds. Don't do too much of that.
105-108	SL: Oh well, at least he's doing, you know, the tractor. I think that would - that would . . . it always looks difficult to me 'cause I don't see how you could -- keep the rows straight. So, it impresses me. (laugh)
108	SL: Have you ever used hired help?
108-112	LD: No. Actually if you grow vegetables -- or if you consider your -- if you consider your minimum wage for your labor chances are that - thats about what you'd pay. So I - I doubt if you could come out -- hiring much labor.
112	SL: Um hm. OK. Well what made you and your wife decide to start selling produce?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
113-132	<p>LD: Well I think I mentioned earlier that I always liked to grow a garden. And ah, since we lived here I had more every year. I always had a surplus. -- More, much more than we could use ourselves. Try to give it away. [incoherent . . .]</p> <p>Children who were married then, I give them a lot, and ah, relatives or neighbors I'd give to. And, I, when I decided to retire -- uh, I looked into the possibilities of growing vegetables 'cause I like to do it. Its something I would just as soon do all the way as hardwork. [incoherent] fish or hunt or play golf, though I'm not a golfer. But -- we checked into it and ah, the first year we grew we ah, in effect, wholesaled it. -- All the vegetables. Part of it was ah, picked up here and hauled [incoherent] by a young - well after we'd picked and washed it and ready. And he took and sold - part of them I sold to a fellow who has a little -- vegetable or fruit stand -- right near where I live. And naturally those people made about a third -- about what they paid me for 'em.</p>
132	SL: Um hm.
132-137	<p>LD: Now next year, uh, was a poor season. I said "Well in order to come ou even," -- cause you do have quite a bit of expense, -- gardening, "we're going to have to sell our own." o we did and we like it, so we followed it by selling -- all of our own produce ourself. Part of it we transport to Bowling Green to sell. We do sell a little of it -- home.</p>
138	SL: What year was this?
138	LD: I'm sorry. When did I start? -- Or?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
138-139	SL: Well, uh, let's see. The year you decided that you were going to start selling yourself, instead of just wholesale.
139-140	LD: That'd be three years ago. Lets see, nineteen fifty-eighty-two.
141-143	SL: Nineteen eighty-two. OK. Well here I'm writing eighteen ninety-two, so (laugh).. OK. That's when you decided to start selling it yourself and
144	LD: [incoherent] I'm sorry. That's nineteen eighty-three.
145	SL: Oh! Nineteen eighty-three?
145	LD: We started selling in nineteen eighty-two.
146	SL: But that was to the wholesaler?
147	LD: Yes.
147-149	SL: All right.. And ah, when you sold in nineteen eighty-three, did - did you sell at the farmer's market? In downtown Bowling Green?
149	LD; Yes
150	SL: How did you find out uh, about selling there?
150-158	LD: Ah, I found out in the year, nineteen eighty-two from the people I contact I sell through wholesale. I found early Homer Collins that runs this -- fruit and vegetable market. I - I'd also contacted the county agent's office and they mentioned this organization. Its called the Southern Kentucky -- Produce Producer's association - Produce Association. And -- the common name for it at the market is the Farmer's Market.
158	SL: M hm.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
158-171	LD: And ah, they have -- meetings once a month except -- ah, I think we missed one Sunday, and talk about growing vegetable products. [incoherent] farm market, and ah, insecticides, land preparation; various things. Ah county agents, often county extension agents office is really involved in this. They have several programs a year when they talk about vegetable growing in Kentucky. They have -- programs where they'll discuss fruit growing. Then they'll have other programs where they talk about ah, specific vegetables such as ah, tomato growing in Kentucky. So ah, I - I think that anybody seems to be growing vegetables here would . . . they may not become a member of this Southern Kentucky Produce Association, but, the name incoherent South Central Kentucky Producers Association. I think they should become members. It only costs five dollars to be full membership.
172	SL: Um hm. OK. Um -- Where do you sell it at? Where's the location?
173-174	LD: The -- Farmer's Market is located in the city parking lot. Its one block from the square. Its between College and State street -- north, toward the river, ah, one block - almost a block from Main Street.
180	SL: Um hm. And about how many people -- come to market?
181	LD: Sellers?
181	SL: Yes.
181-184	LD: It'll vary. Now back during the summer when there's a lot of produce, we had one day there's sixty-nine different -- either cars or trucks there....

INTER	TRANSCRIPTION
184	SL: Um hm.
184-194	LD: And early in the -- summer in June -- May and June when I first started there may -- may have been four or five the first time we went. This was ah, early June and I had - guess there's about ten there. Now it tapers off until ah, late fall in October. And Saturday there may be eight or ten sellers -- where ah, Tuesday . . . I understand last Tuesday there was only five or six. Ah, it depends on whether you have any produce. I haven't had enough to go and last two weeks to the market -- Farmer's Market. I've gone to the - the mall, Greenwood Mall and I've sold on Thursday. In the mall; last two Thursdays.
195-197	SL: So -- the Farmer's Market is Tuesdays and Saturdays, and the Greenwood Mall is on -- on Thursdays. About how many do you spend there?
197-199	LD: At - at the mall, from about nine to four. It be about seven hours.
200	SL: Um hm. OK.
200-207	LD: Now at the Farmer's Market, uh, it opens at seven o'clock in the morning. So you, then, generally I don't know if there's any closing. We never stay till beyond twelve o'clock. But ah, sometimes ah, once we got there had quite a variety of vegetables. We sold -- uh to the point where we only had I think maybe -- five or six pounds of potatoes. We sold everything else we had, at about nine o'clock, so we came home!
208	SL: (laugh) do you just come home when you run out.
208	LD: Right.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
208-211	SL: OK. Um, -- how do you and your wife divide the work that goes into raising and selling? I know I hit this earlier but, could you go into it a little bit more?
212-225	LD: Actually there's little - little division. Now, naturally I devote more time to it because she is a housewife. She cooks; she cleans house and all those, does the wash, and so she has less time to devote than I do, but, we share the chores and she's busy in the house, and uh, the uh, for instance, the beans need cultivating. I take a hoe and weed. Weed and cut the weeds from the beans; pull up weeds. There's - there's really -- little division. Now, in general, during the time that you need to dig potatoes with a hoe; I do that. I'll ah, pick all the -- corn. This year I did all the cultivating of the corn and all the planting. However, its, I mean, her help -- she's there to help.
226	SL: Um hm.
226-240	LD: So there's no uh, really, little division. Now she does it, I mentioned, pick beans. She's a better bean picker than I am. So, and ah, picks about twice as fast. So uh, while she's picking beans I might be picking cucumbers or ah, digging potatoes or picking corn. In the summer, while she's cultivating, uh weeding, lets say squash, I might be uh, preparing the land so we can plant something else. -- She has a pretty green, uh a pretty green thumb. A pretty good, I guess, . . . she ah, I'm not saying it right but anyway she - she can plant something seems to come up. So ah, planting seed or sowing seed, she'll do that. I may [incoherent].

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
241-242	SL: uh huh. So uh, 'bout what time do you -- start -- planting -- your seed?
243	LD: You mean in -- early spring?
243	SL: Yes
243-261	LD: Well we plant a few things that uh, this year we we were able to sell something in years past . . . we planted a few things in February that normally you're not able to sell such as the regular green peas. Now I'm not speaking of black-eyed peas. Now we tried to plant some of those in February, and some lettuce, and try to set some onion sets. These are the ones you -- have a small one you put in the ground. Maybe -- some mustard -- and some of the -- cole crops. Uh, this is C-O-L-E [spelled out]. It includes broccoli, cabbage, uh they're pretty well frost resistant. We might set some of those in February. Also we might some . . . a few potatoes [incoherent]. Really we start, try to start planting in February. -- Assuming two things: that you can get the ground ready if its not too wet. Not too wet to plant, not too wet to prepare, not too wet [incoherent].
261	SL: Uh huh. Is the ground hard in February sometimes?
261-263	LD: Not usually. Problem is if its dry enough to actually work.
264	SL: I see. So you have wet springs? Early springs?
264-270	LD: Usually in Kentucky, -- and this is been true wherever I lived, you'll find -- about a week normally in February sometimes its the first week of March -- thats fairly dry. Enough so you can get out, work the ground and do some early planting.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
270-274	SL: OK. Um. What kind of plants do you -- plant at -- different times. I know you say you started out with a - with a - regular peas and some lettuce and stuff that as the month . . . say, say in March What would you plant in March?
274-294	LD: I've tried a few times to plant some corn. Now, if I haven't planted potatoes, in - in February, I'll plant those in March. And, because of the wetness I'll [incoherent] spray. Its hard to find a time when its dry enough. So uh, you would let -- potatoes -- a little bit of corn . . . now I don't plant corn to sell commercially because you're taking a chance of frost, and I would plant just a - a little for our own use in - in March. Another thing that you try to do is get your land ready in March, or early plantings in April. If the soil is right I usually put plastic down in March, although you could put it down this fall. I might do some of that -- and have it ready for next month, so that about -- the middle of April -- you could set -- tomatoe plants right through the plastic. At the same time we uh, will plant some cucumbers -- and cantaloupes -- through plastic.
294	SL: This is in April?
294-297	LD: Yes. You're again taking a chance 'cause it might get frost bit. Might get killed. Thats a - now also in April -- you plant some corn.
298	SL: Uh huh.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
298-305	LD: Now this year I planted three varieties. Now, I planted them just one day after the next. But they were . . . had different maturity dates. One matured in sixty-five days. One, seventy-seven or seventy-eight, and the other one, ninety to ninety-two days.
305	SL: So ah, that - thats in April then?
306	LD: Yes.
306	SL: OK. And how about May?
306	LD: Well there's a few other things you plant in April
307	SL: Oh! OK.
307-325	LD: You - you can plant -- all types of lettuce if you haven't already planted it. Bib lettuce, regular leaf lettuce, head lettuce If you haven't planted it you can plant uh, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli . . . and also want to sow uh, some radishes. Then in -- in May, you - you really . . . its the pea you want to plant next if you haven't already planted them. Or you might have later plantings of corn -- tomatoes -- and other - other crops. Uh, now we . . . 'course I left out some I know but -- we try to plant so that we'll have various kinds for sell - sale throughout the -- summer.
326	SL: Um hm.
326-331	LD: In May would be about the first time that you could plant -- beans. You're taking a chance if you plant them in -- April, because again they might get frost bit. But we try to schedule the bean planting so that -- we'll have some beans for sale throughout the summer.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
331	SL: Uh huh.
331	LD: I'm out now.
331-332	SL: You're out now! (laugh) Did they - do the beans mature fast?
333-339	LD: You have different varieties. They uh, will mature in -- sixty to seventy days. There are a few that mature faster than that but that - thats the average.
339-342	SL: So ah, you plant then throughout the - the year, and you - you ah, you have veg - vegetables. Do you have fruits?
342	LD: Yes.
342-346	SL: Um. I was thinking like strawberries and raspberries, if you have those, those required growing like on bushes or - or whatever... How do you - how would you plant strawberries or raspberries and when do you expect them to mature?
346-362	LD: OK. You - you set the plants of strawberries. Normally they're set in - the plants you ordered - and they're set -- in the fall of one year -- so that they'll be ready to pick -- the next spring. Now they usually ripen -- May and early June. I have some growing just for home use. I don't have any for sale. I didn't sell any this year. I also have uh, some raspberries. [incoherent] . . . this - I planted over a year ago and they're uh, didn't bear too much this past year, so [incoherent].
362-365	SL: OK. How do you uh, take care of a raspberry bush? How do they bear? How - how do you prune it? I hear you prune raspberry bushes -- different.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
365-377	LD: OK. What the growth that you had this year is what bears -- next year. So, after . . . now mine are new so they haven't bore, but let's take the next year. After they bear this -- coming -- summer, then -- when they become dormant next fall I - I'll cut all the old growth and just leave what grew next summer. Now that'd be the fruit crop the next summer.
377-378	SL: OK. I - I'd heard something about that but I wasn't exactly sure
378-387	LD: Uh, also they - the roots run out and if you don't keep them cultivated by plowing or cut them incoherent right off the till using a rototiller on each side, your row would, it - it'd come just - form a bed rather than rows. So you have to keep those excess vines cut out. Now, that's one way to get more rows.
387	SL: Um hum.
387-389	LD: And that's when they become dormant this fall that's what I'm going to do is -- dig up those excess and -- set another row.
390-391	SL: I see. So they -- they reproduce themselves and you don't have to buy more plants.
392	LD: That's right.
392	SL: Oh great! I'm going to stop the machine here and change tapes.
393	LD: OK.

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2]

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
004-090	SL: OK. This is Shaunn Lybarger. I am a student at Western Kentucky University, and I'm interviewing Mr. Langdon Dyer of Woodburn, Kentucky. The topic of this interview is Mr. Dyer's occupation as a produce raiser and seller. The date is Thursday evening -- er Tuesday evening, pardon me, October eight, nineteen eighty-five. Uh, Mr. Dyer, do I have permission to record this conversation, to be used according to the donation form -- provided by the -- Kentucky -- Museum?
010	LD: Yes.
010-011	SL: OK. Now you were telling me that you wanted to backtrack and cover a topic that I'd, ah, missed, and I'm perfectly to - to go back.
012-026	LD: Uh, I - I mentioned something about successive planting of beans. During the summer, from the time we first -- plant beans, we try to plant some about every two to three weeks, so that you'll have some new ones coming in all summer long. Now we also try to do this with several other crops such as -- squash. We've had four different plantings this summer of squash. Cucumbers; four different plantings. Now tomatoes . . . its good if you're going to have some in the fall to have at least -- two uh, plantings. We've had uh, . . . I grew Silver Queen corn, and this is a variety that matures inninety to ninety-four days. I think the seed catalog says ninety-two. I planted, uh, it four different times. Uh, the problem is some vegetables just don't do too well in

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	the hot summer and if you plant them you're taking a chance. But if you're going to have a fall garden, you've got to plant some of these things, and you can plant here, in the Bowling Green areas -- safely until about the first of August.
027	SL: My gosh. What would you plant as late as the first of August?
028-036	LD: Green beans, turnip and mustard greens, head lettuce, -- uh, leaf lettuce . . . you uh, also could plant . . . so uh, could plant squash, and cucumbers . . . uh also the cole crops -- such as as - brocolli, cabbage, cauliflower. And I have those that I just mentioned that are growing. Everying, actually, can be harvested, except the cabbage and the cauliflower.
036-038	SL: Uh huh. Gosh! (laugh) Its keeping you busy. Well now that we're talking about, uh, different planting times, lets get a list of the kinds of things that you produce.
038-042	LD: (laugh) I'll probably leave some out. [cough] I wish I'd written these down in alphabetical order, so I'm going to have to go over the garden from the, uh, front toward the back, and tell you as I go. Are you going to ask about fruits later? 'cause I do have some fruits in the garden.
042-044	SL: Well we'll - we'll just ah, you give me the vegetables, and with that list we can take the fruits.
044-051	LD: OK. -- Tomatoes, sweet pepper, kale, eggplant, both yellow squash and zucchini, green beans, Irish potatoes, this is what they normally call "potatoes," but I'm using that to [incoherent] from sweet potatoes . . .

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
052	SL: Those are like those great big mes I bought a couple weeks ago?
052	LD: Yes.
053	SL: Oh boy. OK. (laugh)
053	LD: Ah, peas. Both - both . . . well three kinds actually. The peas that you hull, uh, some people call them "English" peas; we had sugar snap peas, and we had black-eyed peas, cucumbers, onions, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, -- head lettuce, bib lettuce, leaf lettuce, -- turnip, mustard -- greens, also uh, turnips, -- asparagus, -- lima beans, okra, sweet corn, -- canteloupe, I grow, uh, not the huge water-melons; I grow the ones they call "sugar babies," small watermelons; sweet potatoes, and I probably left something out.
070	SL: Well lets just think of some. How about uh, squash?
071-072	LD: Yes, Uh, I'm sorry if I didn't mention squash. I believe I mentioned both yellow squash and zucchini.
072	SL: OK. I didn't - I was right. Zucchini is a squash. Uh
073	LD: Oh! and butternut squash.
074	SL: Butternut squash. OK. So actually you grow three kinds of squash?
074	LD: Yes.
075	SL: OK. You mentioned broccoli and cauliflower Onions?
076	LD: Yes.
076	SL: OK. And cabbage . . . Uh; you said eggplants. What about carrots?
077	LD: Oh! I'm sorry. Carrots and -- beets.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
078	SL: OK. Um, rhubarb or asparagus?
079	LD: I've got, uh, asparagus and I - I've forgotten rhubarb.
079	SL: OK.
080	LD: I've said that.
081	SL: Uh, can you think of any other kinds of vegetables?
081-084	LD: I'm probably omitting one or two, but, its all I could remember. And I had to go by -- the - where I could remember the position where they were planted, but some of them have matured and gone, and we've double-cropped or put something in their place or may have something down.
084	SL: OK. Well we'll hit the fruits then.
085	LD: Ok. Uh, strawberries and raspberries. . . .
087	LD: Can't recall the variety, but they're the red.
088	SL: OK.
089	LD: There are some they call the "purple." They're black but ours are red.
090	SL: OK.
090-092	LD: And I have blueberries. [pause] And the trees I have -- apple.
093	SL: What kind of trees . . . do you have two kinds?
093	LD: Uh four - four kinds.
094	SL: Oh! Four kinds.
095	LD: Have ah, "delicious" apple trees, uh, winesap, a real early one call "Stack's Early Blaze,"
096	SL: "Stacks Early Blaze?"
096	LD: Uh, "Early - Early Blaze."
096	SL: Uh huh.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
097-100	LD: And uh, I have "Red Delicious," "Golden Delicious," . . . I've got, uh, one I can't, its uh, "Jonathan. . . ." Uh yeah it is "Jonathon."
101	SL: OK.
102-104	LD: Got one that's growing. Its called an "Arkansas Black." Its a real late apple.
104	SL: You say its growing? So
104	LD: Hasn't produced yet.
104	SL: Hasn't produced yet. Uh, when do you expect it to?
104	LD: If it doesn't produce this coming year it - I'm going to chop it down!
105	SL: Oh! (laugh) OK.
106	LD: Its old enough!
106	SL: Its old enough.
106-107	LD: Now in addition to, uh, applie trees, I have grape - grape vines. I have four different varieties of grapes.
108	SL: What are those?
108-116	LD: One of 'em of course is the "Concord." Thats the -- well-known purpose grape. There is a -- white grape with seeds, I can't recall the name of it. There's one that's designed as a wine grape. Now I don't make wine, but it - its good to eat. But you uh can't preserve it or make jelly. The other one is a -- purp grape. And is ah, real good to eat. Now I can't recall the name of it. I've got, ah, three different kinds of plum trees.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
117	SL: What are they?
117-119	LD: One is a old-fashioned red plum, I can't recall the name. One is a purple. And then one is, ah, 'bout halfway between the two.
120	SL: So the -- reddish-black is it?
120	LD: Yes.
120	SL: OK. And ah, how about cherries?
121-125	LD: I have three cherry trees. These I didn't get from a nursery the cherry trees. I got them from -- sprouts -- from a tree that produces well, and a nice -- large red cherry. Don't know the name but they're well-adapted to this area. Most other cherry trees won't produce, but these - they do well.
126	SL: OK.
126	LD: I've got two different pears . . . trees.
127	SL: And what are those?
127-130	LD: Again I can't give you the name, but one is the normal uh, pear, that's grown regularly, and the other's a red pear.
130-131	SL: I was wondering . . . I know two kinds of pears. One is a "Comire" and the other's a "Bartlett." incoherent
131	LD: Its a "Bartlett."
131	SL: A "Bartlett."
131	LD: Sorry I just couldn't recall the name.
131	SL: Well that's.- I only knew that 'cause I'd been to the grocery.
132	LD: (laugh) And I have uh, several peach trees.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
133	SL: OK. What kind of peaches do you have?
133-140	LD: I've got the "Red Haven" I've got three different kind of "haven". - I can't recall which - which ones. "Bell Haven," "Red Haven" and I can't remember the others. And, uh, I can't recall it either. Its well-known, grows in Georgia, and is south of the line. Its a southern peach. [incoherent] well here. They usually, ah, bloom too early.
140	SL: I see.
140	LD: In addition to that I've got some -- chestnut trees growing. And some pecan trees.
141	SL: And are those -- producing yet or are they just now
142-144	LD: They're young. One of the chestnut trees -- produced some -- last year, but ah, didn't have any this year.
144	SL: Are chestnuts popular down here?
145-149	LD: Yes. Now, uh, this was many years ago . . . you may recall your father or maybe grandfather talking about when the chestnut trees died. There was a blight hit this country -- oh it must have been 'bout nineteen - thirty -- or earlier I'd say -- the mid nineteen - twenties. It killed all the - horse chestnut trees.
150	SL: Uh huh.
150	LD: Now what the people grow now are Chinese -- chestnut and they're blight-resistant.
152	SL: Uh huh.
152-156	LD: The trees I have I got from a nurs - no I'm sorry, I got them from my brother-in-law's -- sprouts that came up under his tree. But ah, they sell quite well at the Farmer's

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	Market. Uh, I - I think that the first ones I saw ah, on sale there was about the first of September.
156-159	SL: My gosh. I've always hear CQ a song "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire." They're . . . I don't see them much up north, but people keep talking about "Oh I'm going to get chestnuts today," down here, and I think, well, "I've got to find some," try them out, 'cause I've never had any.
159-161	LD: Well I'd say if you go to the Farmer's Market Saturday, downtown Bowling Green, you'll find somebody with some. You know how to prepare those things don't you?
161	SL: No. Well, roasting. (laugh)
161	LD: Yeah.
161	SL: I wasn't sure.
161-166	LD: They, ah, don't taste too well -- just ah, take one out of the hull - and eat it. It tastes pretty good, but much better -- roasted just a little bit. Couldn't tell you how many - what degrees temperature for how long. I think a think about three hundred - I think you pre-heat the oven about three hundred fifty degrees and leave 'em in there about five minutes.
167-168	SL: OK. I'll have to try that. Well, lets see, have you thought of any vegetables that you might have -- missed -- along the way?
169	LD: Did I mention onions? I had.
169-170	SL: Yeah, I guess you did mention them. OK. Where do you get your seeds?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
171-178	LD: I buy most -- of the, and, uh, when I'm buying, to plant quite a bit such as corn or beans from Harris -- Seed Company. We get from, ah, them and ah, . . . I have a commercial catalog. Un, they sell in quantities. For instance, can't buy less than five pounds of seed corn. For instance, if you have a small garden want to plant just a row or two, I think maybe a half-pound uh . . .
178	SL: Uh huh.
178-182	LD: The reason I do is because, uh, you save - for instance on corn you'll save at least a dollar a pound over retail price that you would pay -- to get it here, uh, locally.
186	SL: Uh huh. Now . . .
186	LD: Now . . .
186	SL: I was gonna say, are there any you get in plants instead of seeds?
187-189	LD: Yes. Now I'll set out -- from two to three hundred tomato plants early in the spring through plastic. And I - I get those locally -- from some greenhouses.
190	SL: Uh huh.
190	LD: Now I usually make arrangements, oh about the first of the year, so they'll have plenty of time to grow. I'll talk to them; see what size they'll have by -- the time I want them, and what their charge is. So I'll contract with some of them; tell them that I need the -- tomato plants -- roughly the fifteenth of April.
197	SL: How do you . . . do you buy the, by hundred or something like that?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
197-203	LD: Uh, yes.. Now also must - I don't grow, uh, a lot of broccoli so I'll go to some of the greenhouses here that have broccoli plants. I'll buy, perhaps, fifteen to twenty. Now if I grew three or four hundred I'd have to contract with somebody to-- sell me the plants.
203	SH: Uh huh.
203	LD: The same thing . . . we do this with plants, uh, we usually plant a couple a dozen pepper plants, so we'll buy those from some - some greenhouse here, locally. With seed, small where we use small volume, we most of the time get those from the Southern State Store.
210	SL: Uh huh. I - is the name of the store the "Southern State Store?"
211-215	LD: Yes.. I meant the "Southern States Cooperative Store." Now there's one on the old Louisville Road north of Bowling Green. Let's see what else is on that road And there's one in incoherent , just every town in -- Kentucky has one, the size of the -- city, they have the store.
216-217	SL: OK. And like you - your trees, you say you get most - did you say you get most of your trees locally?
218-221	LD: No. I got most of the apple trees, pear, -- peach trees and pecans from Stark. Stark, uh, nursery.
222	SL: Is that in Bowling Green?
222	LD: No.
223	SL: You don't know where. Well that's - that's not that's OK.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
224-225	LD: If could . . . if you want to know, I get Thelma. She can tell me. We got a catalog from them today, but I . . . and I was going to look up the address, but I . . .
226	SL: That's OK. I bet I could look find that myself . . .
227	LD: S-T-A-R-K-S. [spelled out]
227	SL: OK. And you were talking about planting through plastic. That intrigues me. What's, ah, the deal?
229-276	LD: OK. Ah, the plastic that I use is in rolls. I'm not sure whether its five hundred feet length or a thousand feet length, but its four feet wide. Now the way that I put it on the ground I first prepare -- the -- soil, -- make sure that its smooth because . . . and level as you can get it. And, uh, I'll roll out a roll of plastic and cover - cover it with dirt on the edge. And then it - you'll have to have somebody help you - maybe two - if its real windy. Then the next row, will lap the edge of this one, one edge of it, 'bout two or three inches. And uh, while its in - in place before the wind catches it; put some dirt on it to weigh it down. And, ah, you could put another row, like the same way. And usually I'll have 'bout twenty feet, maybe five rows this way. And you have to . . . where it laps over you got to put a lot of dirt on it because that dirt will dry. Its better to have, uh, some -- stones or -- boards to put until that dirt dries until up in the summer it becomes nothing but, uh, powder, and the wind will blow it off and blow the plastic too. Usually though after its

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>been on for, and on the ground for -- three to four weeks, it for some reason -- sticks to the ground. So it won't blow up easily. Problem is about the first month. Then, when you're ready to plant, I - I'll go through the middle of the four-foot - four feet row and -- punch holes with a bulb setter. It punches a hole about two inches in diameter. And I'll push it further in the ground if I'm going to set a tomato plant. If I'm gonna plant cucumbers, or, ah, -- cantaloupe or what have you I'll -- make a hole less deep, and just -- you have a little hole there and you cover it. Cover your seed or push the dirt in around your tomato plant if you're setting one. And it grows! Now, its possible if you have, ah, plastic that's as mine is . . . its not biodegradable. Biodegradable is the kind that will deteriorate over a period of time. Put that down this fall. And it warms the soil so that you can plant earlier. It keeps the moisture in -- so that the plant usually does not suffer lack of moisture. And it certainly eliminates weeds!</p>
276-278	SL: Um hm. I was going to say I wondered what the - the ah, purpose was. So its mostly - to eliminate weeds and - and keeps things warm?
278-293	LD: Yes. It works as - as far as elimination of weeds and keeping moisture in the ground just the same as a straw mulch would. Now naturally if you have straw or something thats mulch, ah, it improves the quality of your soil. Will make it looser. And it may supply some plant nutrients.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

'Course plastic doesn't do that, but it - it does keep the moisture in keep the soil You'll have . . . whatever you plant through plastic, normally it will -- mature earlier. Now I always plant tomatoes -- through the plastic -- so I'll have tomatoes to sell at the market -- a couple weeks earlier -- than the person who might set in the ground. So I -- might get a pretty good price.

293-294

SL: Uh huh! Guess so. Does that help keep bugs and worms and things at a minimum too?

295-307

LD: I can't tell any difference. And, uh, 'cause the cutworms . . . and that's incoherent . . . that's a worm that will cut your plant off just right at the soil surface. Its a bad . . . if there's any around they do just as much cutting of the plant and destroying it -- if its in plastic or otherwise. Ah, so as far as -- plants that, ah, in ground as opposed to plastic, and bugs that attack them, the roots, stems, leaves, I can't tell any difference.

307

SL: Uh huh. I see. So how big is your garden?

311-319

LD: Well I own eighteen and a half acres here. So I can -- plant -- really as much as I want to. There is a pond on the place. Its about a half acre of woods, so really I have -- at least sixteen acres I could be planting. Normally I -- I have three to four acres.

219

SL: Three to four acres. Thats still a large piece of ground.

320-322

LD: But now, two and a half to three of that's in corn . . . sweet corn.

322

SL: OK. Um, do you use any kind of irrigation?

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

324-342

LD: No I don't, uh, how - however you need it. If you're going to grow vegetables all season you're at the mercy of the hot, dry weather. Midsummer here in south central Kentucky . . . and it would be better if I irrigated . . . I did -- on some late beans I had, and some squash . . . I did a little bit of irrigation. But we're on the rural water district. Water is too expensive. By the time its purchased and distributed in line . . . to do much irrigation with it. Then it has chlorine in it that, ah, well in my opinion damage some plants in just a little . . . What I should get is a - a - get a well dug, and put in an electric pump -- and have an irrigation system.

342

SL: OK.

342

LD: Um . . .

342

SL: Is that kind of expensive?

342 - 359

LD: Yes. I don't want to - to expand. If I did that and if I also I'd use a hand sprayer to spray insecticides on my plants, and I - it would be much easier if I had a sprayer -- and mounted on the back of a tractor I have. And, uh, the power takeoff on my tractor would run the pump, and you could spray several rows at the same time.

incoherent I - I don't want to expand. But if I did these - did these two things then instead of growing -- three to four acres I'd probably be obligated to grow six acres . . . I'd have to work harder and make more to pay for those two riders. And they'd probably cost, oh, thousand to fifteen hundred dollars to get both of them. [incoherent]

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
359-360	SL: Now that's in the irrigation method and - and also a sprayer on the back of a truck?
360	LD: A tractor..
360	SL: A tractor. Uh huh.
361-370	LD: Its the type that you'd see, uh, the tractor out in the fields bringing soybeans or, uh, wheat; sometimes tobacco. You've seen one, with the boom out, looks like water sp-trickling down from 'em or spraying.. Spraying some kind of . . . it might be also a herbicide. Being used, a herbicide or pesticide or both. [incoherent]
370	SL: OK. I'm going to stop the tape here and turn it over. [END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1]
000-031	[This is very faint. So much so that I can't make it out. After 031 it is clear.. I must have knocked the cord or something.]
031	SL: OK. We were talking about insecticides. What kind do you use?
031-035	LD: Ah, I use primarily two different ones. One is "Sevin," S-E-V-I-N. [spelled out] Now I believe another name for it is "Carboryl," [?] [spelled out]. I believe is C-A-R-B-O-R-Y-L, what you spell it. But everybody calls it Sevin. [incoherent].
035	SL: Its - you say the other is carbo - what?
035-036	LD: I - its another name for it. Its Carboryl or Curboral, ? C-A-R-B-O-R-Y-L.. [spelled out].

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
037	SL: OK.
037	LD: But everybody calls it Sevin.
037	SL: All righty.
037	LD: And, ah, malathion.
038	SL: And, ah, what kind of bugs do these kill?
038-041	LD: I many times used it in combination. And as - as far know - as I know, if its placed on strong enough it'll kill everything except grasshoppers. And I think if it actually hits one of those it'll kill it.
042	SL: Uh huh. What kind of bugs do you usually have to contend with?
042	LD: Many that I don't know the name of.
043	SL: (laugh) Just bugs, huh?
043-055	LD: (laugh) Uh, well, potatoes as an example, uh, you have the Colorado Potato Beetle. The old potato bug. Either of these will work on -- it and kill the, uh, ah, it might be called the larvae. Uh, I don't think either of them will kill the hard-shell bug that lays the eggs that hatches and forms these, but you can interrupt their life cycle by -- putting this on the limbs. incoherent . . . reddish-type bugs . . . incoherent and it'll kill squash bugs, cucumber beetles, corn ear worms, -- it'll kill - the cutworm I mentioned, that cuts plants right off at the ground. The best solution for that, some people say, is to put a collar out of cardboard or, ah, that you can -- turn around such as a -- fulcrum that you have there and push it down . . . keep

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

the cutworm away. Well the easiest thing to do is just -- put -- this Sevin on the ground around the plant . . . this wet base of the plant, and it'll keep 'em away.

055 SL: How -- how long does it last? Do you have to apply it several times?

056-067 LD: Ah, yes. Normally it'll wash off -- most plants when you have a good rain. Ah, I have a lot of trouble with -- the cabbage luper, .? ah, cabbage bug. Its got some particular name but, ah, you usually have to spray cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, -- just about after every rain. It'll kill corn ear worms and . . . it won't kill the stock borer, called the "European Corn Borer" that bores up the stock and gets in the bottom of the ear of corn. It might if you had just applied it and that worm tries to cut through the -- husk of the corn . . . it might kill it, but that doesn't seem to have much effect on it, but it will kill the worm that gets in the -- tip of the ear.

068 SL: Um, what would you do about a corn borer? Is there something you can do about them?

068-074 LD: Not -- as far as I know. Corn for human consumption, I don't think there's any . . . uh, as yet any approved -- pesticide that you can use. Now they do have it for field corn. There's a tobacco spray that you might -- use to spray tobacco to kill -- worms on tobacco. Its strong enough that it'll kill 'em, but its not approved for human consumption.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

075-077

SL: Uh huh... And ah, would -- do you know of anybody . . . not that I want you to mention names or anything, but do you know of anybody who would use that kind of insecticide?

077-091

LD: I know of -- s. - some people who use a systemic -- that, ah, I think its "Furidan." It gets in the stocks of field corn. Comes up through the roots. And uh, I think its Furidan, but it'll keep those borers -- from the field corn. Now I have known people -- planting corn and -- harvesting for their own use. I don't know of anybody who'd sell some. Or use this . . . I hope not, 'cause they could poison somebody. Its - its very dangerous. Even the milder pesticides I use, in Sevin and malathion there's -- certain limits, uh, of days after you apply it. Uh, from when you'd harvest a crop. Some of them -- harvest the same day or the next day. Others you have to wait -- six or seven days, and greens such as turnips, mustard, leaf lettuce and such, its about fifteen days.

091-094

SL: Hm. Well you know there's, ah, this powerful stuff that you were talking about that ah, the farmers use on field corn; do they wash that corn before they use it for feed, or, or do these cows just eat it as is?

094-103

LD: They eat it as is. Apparently they determined its not harmful to ah, to livestock. I'm not convinced that it isn't. But, ah, . . . and I - I have for instance I was talking about people -- using some of these sprays on . . . and not using

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

them at the right time. I have - have some turnip greens, mustard greens, that they had no holes in them. Well if you apply this within the time limits you're gonna have flea beetles what's gonna eat a few holes in the leaves, so I I rather suspect some people have sold some of this - this produce that they use sprays when they weren't supposed to. Maybe used the wrong kind of spray.

103 SL: Hm. So you gotta beware if it looks too good. You might - it might be harmful.

104-109 LD: Could very well be. Now this - this time of year normally your mustard and turnip greens won't have many holes in them 'cause those bugs are -- not around. But the flea beetle earlier will really eat holes in them. Ah, I'm a little suspicious of, say ah, corn on the cob where there's not an ear worm in it. Somebody may have used an illegal spray.

110 SL: I see . . .

110-126 LD: Now I'm just as concerned about these you buy in -- stores -- because some of these people that produce it want - want to have good-looking produce and they may use some of these sprays illegally. So I'm not saying that a person that bought from, ah, Farmer's Market or from a -- produce -- grower, would ah, I - I'd say they were the least likely [incoherent] than if they bought from a supermarket because its lost its identity and they - its hard to trace it back to where its produced and what illegal sprays -- were on it.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

Ah, I've got, ah, material put out by the University of Kentucky Extension Service that tells what you can put on various vegetables, and ah, when, where, how, -- what's approved, and what isn't. I try to follow their recommendations. They are developing -- many -- more so I'd say, herbicides -- weed killers, that's been approved for various vegetables. I don't use any -- any herbicides. I don't use weed killers at all.

126 SL: Is . . . how -- how do you control these?

126 LD: By cultivation.

126 SL: How often do you cultivate? What do you do to cultivate?

127-132 LD: Uh, well, you make sure that you get weeds from between the rows. Now I do this with a tiller or for the corn I've got a cultivator that -- is a small plow that I pull with a tractor. But that, and to get the weeds from -- from the hill or the ridge you got to pull 'em by hand.

132 SL: Pull them by hand.

132 LD: I take a hoe and [incoherent] between plants.

133 SL: Back bending labor (laugh).

133 LD: Yes!

134-136 SL: Oh gee whiz! Um. Are there any crops that -- that required a lot of care. That you really have to be careful about?

137 LD: Uh, would you elaborate on that? I don't quite understand.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

137-142

SL: Yeah. Um. Oh, there's some that you - you have to -- go out and -- and be very certain that you keep the weeds away from them or that - that I've often seen people invert a jar or something over a certain plant to keep it. . . . I'm not exactly what the purpose was. I just wondered if you do anything like that.

142

LD: Yes. Ah, those jars you've seen has been in the early spring hasn't it?

143

SL: Yeah.

143-151

LD: That - that's to, ah, prevent if it frosts, from the frost killing the plant. Now they got commercial . . . they call them clonches, C-L-O-N-C-H-E-S, spelled out that you can buy that, ah, some of them are wigwam sh - type, some of them are round-type. They even have one that's -- in a long row and its about a foot to a foot and a half high in diameter also. And you can just put this over the entire row and . . .

152

SL: They like little greenhouses?

152

LD: Yes. That's what it amounts too. A miniature -- greenhouse.

153

SL: I see. So they're like little plastic-covered frames?

153-165

LD: Yes. Now that's to, ah, prevent the frost. Ah, actually when you get into the vegetable growing there's hardly any crop that would require -- more care than an other. If - if you grow pumpkins, I don't [incoherent] than sweet corn, and thats -- the last concern, generally.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	They might develop a fungus or they might -- have some kind of -- bug that would attack. Bacteria get in the -- pumpkin vine and kill it. But normally they require little of care. Ah, its hard to say -- . . . I will tell you one -- you have to spray all summer long an' that's eggplant. I think in mentioning vegetables I left it out.
165	SL: Possibly. Possibly. Ah . . .
166-170	LD: But it doesn't require much care. You just have to make sure that you -- keep the weeds away from it. But, ah, flea beetles will get on and eat it up. So, however, I -- I say . . . I don't do this, but I say whenever I go through the garden I need to spray the eggplants. (laugh)
171	SL: (laugh)
171	LD: But you want to be sure to - to spray it after - after each rain, and about every ten days whether it rains or not. Ah, so, you consider the protection you have to give to keep the bugs off, what cultivation you have to do, there's hardly any difference, ah, in - in the plants. Theres . . . one may require more care than another at certain times. incoherent. Some of them you need to use -- antiphanti -- fungus. That - got wilts . . . they call it the "wilts." Ver - verbicillium wilt...
182	SL: Verbicillum you say?
182	LD: [incoherent] but anyway they'll attack -- certain tomato plants. Now I buy tomato plants that are -- generally

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

blight free. When you do that you frequently sacrifice quality. To me, uh, the old-fashioned "Rutgers" tomato plant was one of the best ones. It has the best flavor. They don't grow very large, there but, 'bout the size of a normal teacup. But they have real good flavor, but they're not blight-resistant. So you can seed that are partially blight resistant. And then you do - you do have sprays, uh, copper sprays, zinc sprays, that you can buy. Then most of the stores that sell seeds or in nurseries; most of the discount houses or places has that you can put on to, ah, help eliminate these blights.

196-206 SL: My gosh. An', 'bout monetarily, what do you put into sprays and seeds and stuff like that?

198-206 LD: OK. Last -- year, our total cash output . . . now ah, if I have minor repair or something for the tractor, that's included. That's gasoline, what diesel fuel I've got - I got one diesel-powered tractor and a tiller, and another that's gas powered. It - it was about eight hundred dollars. This year it -- will be more like a thousand.

207 SL: OK. And - and that -- that includes the whole -- ball of wax . . . everything

2-8-212 LD: Seed, fertilizer, insecticide, the cost of paying two dollars to sell at Farmer's Market, it includes the five dollar membership fee, actually out of pocket outlays. Now it may be 'bout thousand dollars this year.

213 SL: OK.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

213-226

LD: I might mention too that I'm do - doing something this year that I didn't do last year. Ah, I'm buying and reselling various vegetables, particularly, well in the last month, I don't - I have -- six or seven varieties, and if you want to sell you need ten to fifteen. So I buy those to Supplement what I have. Ah, I've picked tomatoes from -- another group . . . had many acres too sell incoherent fresh fruit market to a, ah, cooperative. They - they got overstocked and quit buying at those, his place, and resold them for the last six weeks.

226

SL: So is this just to - to make up for what may not have grown in you own garden or

227-237

LD: Yes. Now we bought, as an example this past Thursday when we went to the mall, I bought some apples and some of my own. I bought a half a bushel of squash, half a bushel of beans, and this is to -- supplement. And I picked a bushel of tomatoes, of, from this farm. Supplementing what you - what you have yourself. So I'll have a little of, ah, buying -- to resell.

238-241

SL: Um. What, ah, what kind of a profit would you get off of it - off of that if you bought and resold Did you mark it up a third, or what?

241-249

LD: Ah, there's - there's - its about a third. Here's the what they say: If you can buy something close to home, then - and go pick it up, its already washed, and you get it, take it and resell it, that you should get -- about a third.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	Now if you go to a place, and you pick it yourself, take it home and wash it, carry it to the market, why probably get, ah, a half or more.
250	SL: I see.
250-262	LD: Ah, sometimes -- particularly if you're going to the Farmer's Market in Bowling Green, its its well worth while to buy something and make a little profit to get people to to stop so you can sell your oh, other items. For instance right now, if you go up there, its nice to have green beans 'cause they're scarce. Well if you could -- purchase some, and not make hardly anything, . . . now I wouldn't say lose money but say you come out even on the whole . . . OK now stop and you got squash, you got okra, got sweet potatoes, got Irish potatoes, got lima beans, you may have tomatoes, and whatever else. So, uh, gotta stop first.
262-265	SL: Sure. So if they buy green beans they'll probably see something else they like. OK. Tell me something about your display, and how you set it up and . . .
265-299	LD: OK we use, ah, lot of aluminum pans. I guess - I guess they're about -- two inches -- high and I guess eighteen inches wide. 'Bout two feet in length. And we, uh, display vegetables in those. Some of the, where there's a large volume, we leave in baskets. Half a bushel baskets and sometimes a bushel. Uh, we usually . . . well its required by the -- health department, that you don't set these on the ground, on the parking lot, if you're selling

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

at the Farmer's Market. So we have a folding table, about as long as a -- not as long as a pool table, not as wide as a ping-pong table -- its probably not quite as long as either. And we display on there. I - I like to put a yellow, such as squash, between two green ones; one them might be cucumbers, the other might be green beans. Got red potatoes, you might have some of those next, then some other green vegetable. One thing about -- vegetables, -- though is you need to have them clean. I've seen where some people sell them where they hadn't been washed. They need to be clean. The beans, as an example, we'll have some - some of them that ah, the end of the bean has touched the ground, and its -- decayed and turning brown . . . break that off or throw the bean away. But if I have another one that's got a bug spot [incoherent] a bean and it won't sell. You might have to throw the bean away - or - or break the spot out. [phone rings]

300-301

SL: OK. Just a moment, I think I'd better stop. [stop machine] [machine starts] I hope I got this thing started here. OK . . .

302

LD: Have I been talking all this time on the [incoherent] (laugh)

302-305

SL: No. (laugh) Um. OK. So you like to have a variety of colors and - and things nice and clean. Do - do you polish, like, apples and things, or . . . ?

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

306-307

LD: Only . . . not generally. However I've got some nice Red Delicious apples that I take a paper towel and rub those off.

308

SL: Oh those are pretty.

308

LD: So they'll shine a little bit.

308

SL: Uh huh.

309-315

LD: Uh, an apple just on a tree will get a little bit of residue. Now mine, that I grow here, they don't have a spray residue. Many time I should of sprayed one more time and they would have. So they have a little dull appearance and you take a paper towel and rub that off. They look better.

316

SL: Uh huh.

316-325

LD: I - in some vegetables its almost impossible to make them look attractive. But, ah, they sell better and people are interested. [incoherent] they'll - they'll buy if they - they look attractive as opposed to uh, some that - that are dirty and you get the wrong impression for a sale so we try to make the best impression we can.

326-327

SL: Uh huh. Well I though our display was attractive. Do you - do you ever enter your produce in fairs of festivals?

328

LD: No.

328-331

SL: I was wondering if that was - if you ever thought

332-335

LD: Well I - I have a few times, but I never really had, except for a possibly the size of a few potatoes, anything that would really -- merit -- display.

336-337

SL: I see. So, uh, do you go to fairs and festivals and take a look at things? See how they are?

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

338-

LD: Ah, I have in years past. I hav - didn't have a chance this year.

338

SL: Uh huh.

338-340

LD: That's your problem. [incoherent] Its your big selling time.

341

SL: Yeah,. I bet they are.

341-344

LD: So the week of the -- fair here in Bowling Green, we were selling three days a week: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, devoting the other days to picking and getting ready to sell on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. So, ah, we didn't have too much time.

344-347

SL: Hm. Too bad. But if you did go, and, do - do you ever talk to --farmers -- and see what their methods are? Do you ever exchange?

347-387

LD: Oh yes. Yes. Um. I - one reason why I am a member of this produce association is with that in mind. Now a - a lot of fellows have trade secrets but most of - of these fellows are open and candid. They don't tell you what to do, and uh, you do what you do, and if you pick up an idea from them that'll help you -- and they'll pick up one from you. There's a good exchange of - of ideas. The first thing, the first in any discipline -- a fellow told me about buying seed corn from Harris Seed Company from their commercial catalog. Well he had . . . he also had an order blank that had his name pre-printed on it. He gave me the order blank, I marked

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

his name out and mine on it, 'sent it in, and asked them to send me - put me on their mailing list for a commercial catalog. Well they sold me I also put a little note with it that I - how much I planned to grow so they wouldn't say "Well here's a fellow that growing a backyard garden [incoherent] and he to get these seeds at a - get a commercial price on them." And, ah, just from what he told me, ah, yeah you get together in Woodburn with the postmaster, he's a vegetable grower, I go to the post office to buy stamps, today as an example, I need to get some stamps and I went up there early this morning before I went out to pick up sweet potatoes, I dug yesterday, 'cause you get -- dirty out there. I had on my work clothes, but, ah, I wasn't all dusty and dirty. Well I guess we spent twenty minutes or more -- talking about vegetables, 'cause he grows those and sells a lot in the summer, when his children are not in school.

386

SL: Uh hm.

386-390

LD: 'Course he's not able to sell then after they get to school because he - he's not full-time on his job, and in addition, he doesn't have, any help. [phone rings] I'm going to get the telephone.

391

SL: OK. I'm going to stop it now.

[END OF TAPE 2 SIDE 2]